GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5554
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. has successfully test fired the National Missile Defence System on July 14, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is concerned with this test or system in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the likely impact of this test fire on the international politics or defence system;

(f) whether India has conducted any study in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) The US conducted an anti-missile test on July 14, 2001. An inter-continental ballistic missile with a dummy warhead and one decoy was launched from the Vandenburg Air-Force Base in the US.A ground-launched interceptor missile was then fired from a US test range in the Marshall Islands. Using hit-to-kill technology, this interceptor missile successfully rammed into the incoming missile and destroyed it.

(c) to (g) This test forms part of a series of tests planned by the United States which will have a bearing on the projects that may be taken up in connection with the missile defence proposal. As regards the impact of the US plans for a missile defence system, consultations and dialogues have been under way between the United States and concerned States including Russia. A special envoy of the US President had also visited India in May this year for such consultations.

The precise details about the proposed system have still not been spelt out.